

Graduate Policy Committee

2013-2014 Annual Report

As in past years, the graduate policy committee conducted work in three main areas this year: (1) the review of graduate programs across campus, (2) the consideration of new graduate program proposals, and (3) the discussion of graduate academic policies that affect university-wide programs.

(1): Six programs were reviewed by the GPC in 2013/2014: Anthropology, Geography, Motion Pictures, International Affairs, Urban Planning, Interdisciplinary Humanities, and Library and Information Studies. There are twelve reviews scheduled for 2014/2015.

(2): Three proposals to explore new programs were granted to the MS Program in Risk Management, the MS Program in Physician Assistant Studies, and the MS Program in Nurse Anesthesia (Panama City). Proposals were accepted for a JD/MS in Aquatic Environmental Science, an Ed.D in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies (Hybrid) and the MS in Nursing Anesthesia (PC).

(3): The GPC discussed a number of policy issues related to graduate programs. Some of the significant issues discussed included:

1) Revised Graduate Faculty Status:

Due to the collectively bargained changes in overall University policies regarding specialized faculty, graduate faculty status was reviewed for specialized faculty. Changes and clarifying language on graduate faculty membership, graduate faculty status, and requirements for co-directive status of master's theses and doctoral dissertations.

2) Changes in Graduate Teaching Assistant Standards:

The University reexamined qualifications and preparation for teaching assistants. University policy heretofore combined requirements for undergraduate and graduate students in a single set of policies. For clarification, graduate and undergraduate teaching policy was divided into two documents. The GPC reviewed and updated minimum standards for different levels of instruction including English proficiency and training. Changes were approved by the Faculty Senate.

3) Changes in Credit Transfer Policy for Students Simultaneously Pursuing Dual Degrees

The Faculty Senate approved changes in the Graduate Bulletin proposed by the GPC. The following was added to the Bulletin:

To ensure that students entering a second graduate degree program receive timely and effect advisement on a program of study approved by the second department, admission to the second graduate degree must be approved before the student completes more than twelve credit-hours of coursework that are counted in that department toward the second graduate degree.

May 8, 2014

This limit of 12 credits earned only applies to students admitted to their first degree in the Fall 2014 semester and onwards.

For the GPC,

Lee Stepina